

Applicant : Owen, et al.
Serial No. : 09/719,889
Filed : February 21, 2001
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Atty Docket No.: 57712-20001.10/12724-
002001/30347USP00

REMARKS

By filing this RCE, the finality of the outstanding office action will be withdrawn and Applicants are entitled to have this first submission for this RCE entered and considered on the merits. Applicants respectfully request examination on the merits of new claims 57 to 65. Applicants will incorporate its response to the final Office Action on the merits mailed January 2, 2004, in Applicants' response to the forthcoming office action examining new claims 57 to 65.

Status of the Claims

Pending claims

Claims 1 to 16, 19 to 22 and 24 to 56 are currently pending.

Allowed claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for finding claims 11 to 16, 19 to 22, 24 to 26, 32 to 38, 45 to 48, 52 and 53 are free of the prior art and allowable.

Claims added in the instant amendment

In the present response, claims 57 to 65 are added. Accordingly, after the entry of the instant amendment, claims 1 to 16, 19 to 22 and 24 to 65 will be pending and under examination.

Outstanding Rejections

Claims 1 and 27 are newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The rejection of claims 31 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, has been maintained. Claims 2 to 10, 27 to 31, 40 to 44, 49 to 51, 54 and 55 are newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 1 to 7, 27 to 31, 43, 44 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Lauto et al. 2001 (U.S. Patent 6,323,037 B1), filed April 6, 1999 (hereinafter "Lauto"). Applicants respectfully traverse all outstanding objections to the specification and rejections of the claims.

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Telephonic interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the helpful and courteous interview of March 18, 2004, where Applicants noted to the Examiner that this RCE is filed to withdraw finality to allow examination on the merits of new claims 57 to 65.

Applicants respectfully request a telephonic interview to discuss substantive issues after the Examiner has reviewed the instant RCE amendment.

CONCLUSION

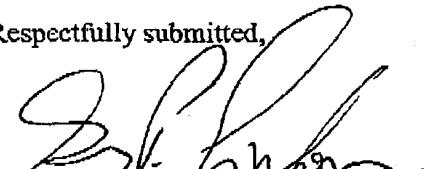
Applicants respectfully aver all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If necessary, please apply additional and necessary charges, and apply all credits, to Deposit Account No. 03-1952.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants respectfully request a telephonic interview with the undersigned at 858 720 5133.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 18, 2004



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